ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

SECOND TO NINTH REPORTS ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8)

UNITED NATIONS

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DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.1

Second report

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1989

[Original: English]

[27 October 1989]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/5), in which he submits revised estimates attributable to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1989.

2. As shown in the annex to the Secretary-General's report, total requirements in 1989 are estimated at $1,385,300, of which $395,700 provides for conference-servicing requirements calculated on a full-cost basis and $989,600 (including $52,100 in extrabudgetary resources) covers requirements other than those for conference servicing. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that he is not requesting additional appropriations in respect of these 1989 conference-servicing and non-conference-servicing requirements. According to the Secretary-General, the entire amount of the estimate of conference-servicing requirements and the bulk of the estimate of non-conference-servicing requirements, totalling $1,136,100, would be met from resources provided under section 23 (Human rights) and section 29 (Conference and library services) of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. The amount of $52,100 would be financed from extrabudgetary resources. The balance of $197,100 would be provided through General Assembly resolution 42/227 of 21 December 1987 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1988-1989.

3. The latter amount ($197,100 under section 9 (Transnational corporations) of the programme budget) relates to implementation of activities called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/25 on transnational corporations and environmental protection in developing countries. In May 1989, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/227, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's request to enter into commitments not exceeding $197,100 for this purpose. In concurring in the request, the Committee expressed the view that in the context of the programme budget performance for the biennium 1988-1989, there may very well be sufficient overall savings to offset any additional requirements under section 9. The Committee also stated its expectation that should any additional appropriation be required, it would be requested in the context of the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/C.5/44/35 and Corr.1 and Add.1, Add.2 (Parts I and II), Add.3 and 4, Add.5 (Parts I and II), Add.6, Add.6 (Part II), Add.7, Add.9-28, Add.28 A-D, F-K and Add.29-35).

4. Total requirements in the biennium 1990-1991 are estimated at $6,165,400 (see A/C.5/44/5, annex). Of this total, $5,083,500 relates to conference-servicing requirements calculated on a full-cost basis. For the reasons stated in

paragraph 4 of his report, the Secretary-General plans to meet the actual cost of these conference-servicing requirements from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

5. The balance of $1,081,900 is for non-conference-servicing requirements attributable to 20 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council. In respect of 12 of those resolutions and decisions, the Secretary-General expects to absorb their related costs, estimated at $726,300, from appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under section 20 (International drug control) and section 23 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (see A/C.5/44/5, para. 5, table, footnote b/; and annex). Consequently, the Secretary-General estimates additional resources for the beinnium 1990-1991 totalling $355,600 - under section 4 (Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)) ($82,000), section 8 (Activities on global social development issues) ($53,000), section 20 (International drug control) ($117,100) and section 23 (Human rights) ($103,500) - in respect of seven resolutions and one decision of the Council, as follows:

	1990	1991	Total
	(United States dollars)		
Resolution 1989/13	58 500	58 600	117 100
Resolution 1989/45	26 400	26 400	52 800
Resolution 1989/63	4 500	-	4 500
Resolution 1989/66	38 000	-	38 000
Resolution 1989/67	15 000	-	15 000
Resolution 1989/68	9 700	-	9 700
Resolution 1989/69	15 000	-	15 000
Decision 1989/190	103 500	-	103 500
Total	270 600	85 000	355 600

The estimate of $355,600 is briefly explained in paragraphs 7 to 25 of the Secretary-General's report. A breakdown of the estimate by object of expenditure is provided in paragraph 26.

6. With regard to the revised estimates resulting from Economic and Social Council decision 1989/190, the Advisory Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that subsequent to the preparation of the revised estimates, it was realized that the amount of $103,500 indicated in respect of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1990 and 1991 in the economic, social and human rights field should not have been requested since this amount should be met from the provisions included in section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 under Economic and Social Council mandates. 1/ In the circumstances, the Secretary-General's total estimate of additional resources for the biennium 1990-1991 in respect of resolutions and decisions of the Council should be reduced by $103,500, from $355,600 to $252,100 (comprising $82,000 under section 4, $53,000 under section 8, and $117,100 under section 20).

7. As for the other activities, in paragraph 2 of his report, the Secretary-General states that these "activities [are] derived from legislative

mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and must, therefore, be considered in the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund for 1990-1991". In paragraphs 27 and 28, the Secretary-General describes his understanding of the use and operation of the contingency fund. In this connection, in response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the statements of programme budget implications that were submitted by the Secretariat, initially to the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and subsequently to the Council itself, in respect of the Council's resolutions and decision referred to in paragraph 5 above, had made reference to the guidelines approved by the General Assembly for the use and operation of the contingency fund. However, the statements of programme budget implications prepared by the Secretariat did not include, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, precise indications of alternatives in the event that total additional expenditures proposed exceeded resources available within the contingency fund.

8. The Advisory Committee points out that in the circumstances the procedures outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the Secretary-General's report and the additional information on the subject provided by his representatives (see para. 7 above) do not fully comply with the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 (sect. II, para. 4, and annex I, sect. C) and 42/211 (para. 13 and annex).

9. Representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the Controller had recently sent a letter to all secretaries of Main Committees and to programme managers detailing the procedures required in order to ensure full compliance with the approved guidelines.

10. The Advisory Committee recognizes that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/44/5) is the first in which he is requesting use of the contingency fund and that those concerned are undergoing a learning process in its use and operation. Nevertheless, the Committee strongly stresses the need for the Secretariat, when preparing statements of programme budget implications of draft resolutions and decisions, not to abdicate its responsibility to provide, for consideration of intergovernmental bodies concerned, precise indications of alternatives in the event that total additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available within the contingency fund.

11. Subject to its observations above, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's estimate of additional requirements in the biennium 1990-1991 totalling $252,100, attributable to seven resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1989 (see paras. 5 and 6 above). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that at this stage, the Fifth Committee take note of the Secretary-General's estimate on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be requested by the Secretary-General will be in the context of a consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session in accordance with Assembly resolution 42/211, annex, section C, paragraphs 5 and 6 (see A/C.5/44/50).

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II, table 23.6, item vii.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.2

Third report

Construction of additional conference facilities at Addis Ababa and Bangkok

Third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

[Original: English]

[7 November 1989]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/7) on the status of two construction projects, at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Addis Ababa and at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Bangkok.

I. EXPANSION OF THE CONFERENCE FACILITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AT ADDIS ABABA

2. Information on the current status and development of the construction project at Addis Ababa is provided in paragraphs 3 to 5 of the Secretary-General's report.

3. In paragraph 5 (d), the Secretary-General states that "discussions have continued with the host Government regarding the operational arrangements that would be necessary during the construction period". In response to its inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that such operational arrangements could only be finalized when the contractor for the project had been selected and more precise logistical and other requirements identified. The Committee trusts that the Secretariat will obtain in a timely fashion the necessary agreement of the host Government to those operational arrangements as may be required for the project prior to the commencement of construction work.

4. An updated timetable for the project is indicated in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report. No change is envisaged in the target date for completion of the main construction work for the project, that is, the second half of 1993. However, it is explained in paragraph 6 that certain aspects of the project timetable have been modified because the results of further geotechnical investigations of the construction site necessitated revision of the foundation design for the building. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that, in consequence, the evaluation of tenders and the award of the construction contract are now expected to be conducted during the period June-August 1990 instead of March-April 1990.

5. Financial aspects of the construction project at Addis Ababa are dealt with in paragraphs 7 to 14 of the Secretary-General's report. As shown in table 1 of the report, on the basis of the latest available detailed designs for the project the June 1989 cost estimates prepared by the quantity surveyor total $93,889,500. This

compares with the amount of $73,501,000 approved in principle by the General Assembly on the basis of a schematic design of the project (see sect. III, para. 3, of resolution 39/236 of 18 December 1984). Justifications for the higher revised estimate of the total cost of the project are contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report. The difference between the two estimates is attributed in the main to revised structural requirements resulting from "unsatisfactory subsurface conditions and consequent foundation redesign" (A/C.5/44/7, para. 10 (a)), revised inflation assumptions, and provision for contingency and administrative costs (not specifically identified previously).

6. The Advisory Committee is mindful of the fact that any further delay is likely to result in a further escalation of the final total cost of the project. At the same time, the Committee points out that even though the latest estimate of the total cost of the project submitted by the Secretary-General (see para. 5 above) has been prepared on the basis of detailed designs, the actual cost will not be known until the bidding process is completed sometime between June and August 1990. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that at this stage the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's revised estimate of the total cost of the construction project at Addis Ababa and request the Secretary-General to proceed as necessary with the approved project in accordance with the provision of section I, paragraph 1 (a), of Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 (see also para. 10 (a) of Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987).

7. In approving, in principle, the construction project at Addis Ababa, the General Assembly decided in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 39/236, sect. III, para. 4, that the appropriation for that purpose should be placed in a construction account and that any unexpended balance should be carried forward until the project was completed. Total appropriations up to the end of 1989 for the project amounted to $3,120,000. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 includes an estimate of $27,801,700 for the project. 1/ In its related report, the Advisory Committee interposed no objection to the Secretary-General's estimate ($27,801,700) and noted that provision for this project was "included in the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1990-1991, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/214". 2/

8. In paragraph 14 of his report (A/C.5/44/7), the Secretary-General provides an updated assessment of expenditure requirements for the project. On the basis of the revised expenditure schedule, the Secretary-General requests an actual appropriation of $27,298,700 under section 32 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for the construction project at Addis Ababa. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the amount requested for appropriation by the Secretary-General, that is, $27,298,700, which is $503,000 less than the amount of $27,801,700 currently included in his initial programme budget proposals for the biennium 1990-1991 (see para. 7 above).

II. EXPANSION OF THE CONFFRENCE FACILITIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AT BANGKOK

9. In paragraphs 15 to 17 of his report (A/C.5/44/7), the Secretary-General provides information on the current status and development of the project. According to the information submitted, the construction contract has been awarded, work has commenced and the project is expected to be completed as scheduled in the period January-March 1992.

10. Reference is made in paragraph 16 (d) to the initiation of discussions between representatives of the host Government and ESCAP regarding "procedures for exemption of the project from the new value-added tax to be introduced in July 1990". The Advisory Committee trusts that this matter will be satisfactorily and expeditiously resolved.

11. Financial aspects of the construction project at Bangkok are dealt with in paragraphs 18 to 22 of the Secretary-General's report. In paragraph 20, the Secretary-General states that "on the assumption that no major change from the current situation will occur and that no major unforeseen costs will arise during the balance of the project, it is expected that the total project cost of $44,177,700 already approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session would be sufficient to cover the cost of the construction project at Bangkok". However, the Advisory Committee notes that for the reasons outlined in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, the pattern of expenditure foreseen for the project has been adjusted.

12. In approving in its resolution 39/236, section XI, in principle, the construction project at Bangkok at an estimated cost of $44,177,700, the General Assembly decided that the appropriation for that purpose should be placed in a construction account and that any unexpended balance should be carried forward until the project was completed. Total appropriations up to the end of 1989 for the project amounted to $22,698,000. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 includes an estimate of $16,861,500 for the project. 3/ In its related report, the Advisory Committee interposed no objection to the Secretary-General's estimate ($16,861,500) and noted that provision for this project was "included in the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1990-1991, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/214". 2/

13. In paragraph 22 of his report (A/C.5/44/7), the Secretary-General provides an updated assessment of expenditure requirements for the project, which takes into account the contractor's schedule of work and projections of cash disbursements by the quantity surveyor. On the basis of the revised expenditure schedule, the Secretary-General requests an actual appropriation of $16,851,500 under section 32 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for the construction project at Bangkok (ibid., para. 23). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the amount requested for appropriation by the Secretary-General, that is, $16,851,500, which is $10,000 less than the amount of $16,861,500 currently included in his initial programme budget proposals for the biennium 1990-1991 (see para. 12 above).

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II, table 32.3 and paras. 32.5 and 32.6.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 32.3.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II, table 32.3 and paras. 32.7-32.9.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.3

Fourth report

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]

[16 November 1989]

1. In the context of its first reading of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 1/ the Fifth Committee debated section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) at its 29th meeting, on 6 November 1989. At that meeting, questions were raised concerning the Secretary-General's request to reclassify four Professional posts from P-2 to P-3 under three programmes of activity in UNCTAD 2/ and the related recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that it "is unable to entertain this proposal since Secretariat procedures established for determining the proper classification levels of these posts and their eligibility for inclusion in the proposed programme budget have not been observed". 3/

2. The Secretariat has since submitted a note to the Advisory Committee on the subject. In that note and as additional information was being provided orally by representatives of the Secretary-General, regret was expressed at the failure to follow established procedures for the inclusion of post reclassification requests in the proposed programme budget. Representatives of the Secretary-General assured the Committee that the procedural difficulties were corrected ex post facto; they further assured the Committee that the cause of the difficulty was being addressed with a view to assuring that this situation would not recur.

3. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee has reconsidered the recommendation contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 3/ Accordingly, the Committee now recommends, on an exceptional basis, acceptance of the Secretary-General's request to reclassify four Professional posts from P-2 to P-3 under three programmes of activity in UNCTAD. 2/ At the same time, the Committee wishes to stress that it will continue in the future not to entertain any requests for reclassification of posts that have not been submitted in accordance with established Secretariat procedures.

4. The Advisory Committee has recommended appropriation of an amount of $78,384,000 for section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 4/ Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General's estimate of $120,800 in additional salary and common staff costs for the biennium 1990-1991 arising from the proposed reclassification of these four Professional posts be absorbed under section 15.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/44/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

2/ *Ibid.*, vol. II, paras. 15.26, 15.39 and 15.54.

3/ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 15.8.

4/ *Ibid.*, para. 15.15.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.4

Fifth report

Conference services at Vienna

[Original: English]

[21 November 1989]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/44/24). The Secretary-General's report has been submitted pursuant to a number of recommendations and requests contained in paragraphs 29.1 to 29.35 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 1/

2. The present report of the Advisory Committee is divided into two parts. Part one addresses the question of unified conference services at Vienna. Part two deals with the Secretary-General's request for reinstatement in full of an amount of $1.5 million in temporary assistance for meetings resources. The Committee had recommended the provisional reduction of this amount in paragraph 29.28 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 1/

PART ONE

3. In paragraphs 4 to 11 and 16 of his report (A/C.5/44/24), the Secretary-General provides a historical perspective as to why efforts to establish unified conference services at Vienna have not been successful so far, as well as information on the current status of the alternative organizational arrangements that were made: joint United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)/United Nations meetings and interpretation service operated by the United Nations and joint UNIDO/United Nations language (i.e., translation) and documents service operated by UNIDO. The need for an in-depth review of such services during the coming biennium, taking into account operating experience gained since 1986, is referred to in paragraph 23 of the report. The Secretary-General states, in paragraph 24, that he "remains convinced that, as proposed in 1985, a single conference-servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre would represent the ideal solution from the standpoint of cost efficiency and that, in view of its mandate to provide a full range of servicing operations for its deliberative bodies, the United Nations is best suited to assume the responsibility of providing conference services to all organizations at the Centre. A unified service operated by the United Nations seems best equipped to promote the most efficient and effective use of scarce resources".

4. The Advisory Committee fully shares the view expressed by the Secretary-General concerning the question of unified conference services at Vienna and believes that the United Nations is best suited to assume that responsibility. The Committee believes that the time has come for urgent action, particularly in view of the deficiencies of the present arrangements, as described by the Committee in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the present report. In the circumstances, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General, taking

into account views previously expressed by the Assembly, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Committee, to take early action to reopen consultations with all interested parties on this subject, with a view to arriving at practical arrangements for the establishment of unified conference services at Vienna at the earliest possible date. The Secretary-General should submit a report on the outcome of these consultations to the Assembly, at the latest, by its forty-fifth session.

PART TWO

5. If approved in its entirety, total temporary assistance for meetings resources amounting to $40,690,800 would be available to the Department of Conference Services in the biennium 1990-1991, comprising $16,753,900 for Headquarters (departmental administration); $13,622,400 for Geneva; $7,109,000 for Vienna; and $3,205,500 for a proposed global provision under executive direction and management, to be dispensed at the discretion of the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments based on the pattern of meetings and related requirements that emerge during the biennium. An amount of $3,597,400 (redeployed from temporary assistance for meetings for technical reasons) would also be available to Vienna, under the object of expenditure "contributions to joint activities", to cover contractual translation costs and reimbursement to UNIDO for other translation and documentation services rendered. 2/ On that basis, for the biennium 1990-1991, the permanent staff capacity for conference-servicing at Headquarters, Geneva and Vienna, would be supplemented by resources for temporary assistance for meetings and contributions to joint activities totalling $44,288,200 ($40,690,800 plus $3,597,400).

6. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 1/ the Advisory Committee recommended the provisional reduction of $1.5 million from the proposed global provision of $3,205,500 under temporary assistance for meetings, pending the receipt of clarifications and additional information from the Secretary-General to a number of concerns raised by the Committee. Those concerns of the Committee are reiterated in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/44/24).

7. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, its stated concerns have not been fully allayed by the responses provided in the Secretary-General's report. The Committee's doubts remain regarding the reliability of information provided by representatives of the Secretary-General concerning work-load and meeting statistics of the three conference centres, and in particular the one at Vienna. The Committee notes that statistics on the distribution of translation work-load at Vienna between the United Nations and UNIDO for the years 1986, 1987, and 1988, as reported in table 29.60 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 3/ vary from those contained in the table in paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's report. According to representatives of the Secretary-General, the variance is attributable to the fact that the data provided in the Secretary-General's report include the contractual translation work-load as well. No convincing reasons were given to the Committee as to why this information was omitted from the work-load statistics provided initially.

8. Moreover, the Advisory Committee points out that it is not possible, either from section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991, 3/ or from the estimates for the Department of External Relations, Public Information, Language and Documentation Services of UNIDO

contained in UNIDO's 1990-1991 programme and budgets document, 4/ to identify precisely the totality of the actual cost of operating the joint language services. There also appears to be an absence of co-ordination between the United Nations and UNIDO with regard to reporting, in their respective budget documents, the estimated costs of the services that are apportioned between the two organizations.

9. For example, in paragraph IS2.5 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991, 1/ the Advisory Committee reported, on the basis of additional information provided by representatives of the Secretary-General, that the Secretary-General's estimates of income under income section 2 (General income) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 3/ included an amount of $1,065,200 in projected reimbursement for meetings planning and interpretation services to be rendered to UNIDO by the United Nations. However, as stated in paragraph 231 of UNIDO's programme and budgets document, 4/ UNIDO estimates its share of the meetings planning and interpretation services rendered by the United Nations at $1,260,200 under the object of expenditure "Contributions to joint activities provided by UNOV [United Nations Office at Vienna]". Furthermore, as stated in paragraph 209, "the share of the United Nations in the joint translation and documents service may be found partly as a charge to section 29 of the United Nations budget and partly as a credit to UNIDO's income section 2 ($4,688,500)". 4/ However, in this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the corresponding United Nations estimate for this activity, shown under "Contributions to joint activities" is $3,597,400. 5/

10. None the less, taking into account the reasons advanced in paragraphs 29.15 and 29.16 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 1/ to explain its decision to refrain generally from recommending reductions to the initial estimates under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee does not interpose any objection to the Secretary-General's request for reinstatement in full of an amount of $1.5 million in temporary assistance for meetings resources, which will form part of the proposed global provision under this object of expenditure ($3,205,500- see para. 5 above). However, the Committee maintains its recommendation contained in paragraph 29.28 that this global provision of $3,205,500 in temporary assistance for meetings resources should be included under departmental administration, Headquarters, and not under executive direction and management.

11. At the same time, because of its reservations stated above (see paras. 7 to 9), the Advisory Committee recommends that recourse during the biennium 1990-1991 by the Department of Conference Services to the additional $1.5 million should be subject to the prior concurrence of the Committee, in the context of the Committee's consideration of the Secretary-General's first performance report for the biennium. The Committee's concurrence would take into account a number of factors, including the outcome of its examination of the Secretary-General's forthcoming report on revised work-load standards for conference-servicing staff, and the detailed analysis of the calendar of meetings. The Advisory Committee would also expect further clarification of the points raised in its present report.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Ibid., para. 29.10.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

4/ See United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Programme and Budgets, 1990-1991 (GC.3/10 and Corr.1).

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II, table 29.58.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.5

Sixth report

General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

[Original: English]

[7 December 1989]

1. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated its belief that the time had come for a re-examination of the provisions of the General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and requested that it be provided with an analysis at its fall 1989 session of that resolution, as currently formulated, vis-à-vis recent developments and current requirements. 1/ In paragraph 26 of its report to the Assembly concerning United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/44/725), the Advisory Committee stated that it agreed in principle that, in respect of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, the level of commitment authority provided to it should be increased. The Committee stated further that it intended to revert to the matter upon receipt of the analysis that it requested from the Secretary-General.

2. The Advisory Committee, having received the information it requested from the Secretary-General, now submits, in the paragraphs below, its observations and recommendations on the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1990-1991. A possible text of a draft resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1990-1991 is also included as an annex to the present report.

3. Over the years, the attention of the Advisory Committee has been drawn to a number of anomalies and other difficulties that exist with regard to what has become the standard text for the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

4. In paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 42/227 of 21 December 1987, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments without the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee for:

> "Such commitments, not exceeding a total of $US 2 million in any one year of the biennium 1988-1989, as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security."

5. The Advisory Committee understands that the level of $2 million is derived from General Assembly resolution 68 (I) of 14 December 1946. It is obvious that this figure needs to be updated, particularly in view of the recent expansion of the good offices and peace-keeping function of the United Nations. The initiatives by the Secretary-General in the exercise of his good offices function, and for which commitments were entered into on his own authority, have increased in recent years both in number and in cost from a total of $804,300 for four activities in 1986 to a total of $1,664,000 for nine activities in 1988. Thus far in 1989, commitments have totalled $1,835,800 for six activities.

6. Furthermore, the magnitude of the requirements for the good offices function of the Secretary-General, giving rise to commitments entered into on his own authority, has significantly increased over the past few years reaching an average of $306,000 thus far in 1989. It should be noted, in this connection, that those initiatives which immediately preceded the launching of a peace-keeping or good offices operation, for which the concurrence of the Advisory Committee was ultimately sought, involved high costs. For example, good offices exercised by the the Secretary-General's Representative on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan ($423,500) prior to the launching of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan; the Technical Survey Mission to Namibia ($285,000), which preceded the launching of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, and initial commitments for that Group ($450,000); and initial commitments for the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Electoral Process in Nicaragua ($540,300), which were later subsumed in the commitment authorized by the Advisory Committee for that Observer Mission

7. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should be allowed to enter into commitments, on his own authority, in amounts not exceeding a cumulative total of $3 million in any one year of a biennium.

8. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the provisions relating to the International Court of Justice (see General Assembly resolution 42/227, para. 1 (b)), as well as that covering commitments for interorganizational security measures (ibid., para. 1 (c)), are sufficient and can remain unchanged.

9. For reasons of clarity, the Advisory Committee recommends rewording paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 42/227, as shown in the annex to the present report; this redrafting implies no substantive change.

10. The Advisory Committee has no difficulty with the existing text of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 42/227. In this connection, the Committee points out that the treatment of such supplementary estimates as may arise from the implementation of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses continues to be governed by the provisions of Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and the annexes thereto. The Advisory Committee also stresses the need for full compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, especially financial rule 103.10.

11. The Advisory Committee has a number of difficulties with regard to the text of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 42/227 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, by which the Assembly:

> "Decides that if, as a result of a decision of the Security Council, commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security should arise in an estimated total exceeding $10 million either before the forty-third session or between the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly, a special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter."

12. In the first place, it is unclear from the above-cited text whether the limit of $10 million is for each decision of the Security Council or whether it refers to a cumulative total for the period in question. The Advisory Committee understands that in recent years the practice has been for this provision to be interpreted as

imposing a limit based upon a cumulative total. Thus, for a particular period, if the total of commitments entered into amounts, for example, to $9.8 million, and additional commitments relating to a subsequent decision of the Council are estimated at $300,000, it would be necessary to call a special session of the General Assembly "to consider the matter", that is, the $300,000. It appears to the Committee that this is not a workable situation and that difficulties in the past have only been avoided through a combination of fortuitous circumstances and efficient management by the Secretary-General.

13. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, what should determine the need to convene the General Assembly is the size of the operation or activity decided upon by the Security Council and not the fact that any amount, large or small, when added to an amount that has already been committed, happens to create a cumulative total in excess of a particular limit.

14. In this connection, it should be borne in mind that commitment authority sought by the Secretary-General as the result of Security Council decisions relates to start-up costs; estimates related to ongoing costs and a performance report on commitments, for which a subsequent appropriation is sought, are submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General at the earliest feasible opportunity.

15. If it is considered desirable to maintain the current practice of considering the limit a cumulative amount, then the new level would have to be much higher than an amount which relates to a single decision by the Security Council. In the latter case, the Advisory Committee recommends that the amount should be maintained at $10 million; in other words, action would be required by the General Assembly in those cases where a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding $10 million, in respect of that decision.

16. The remaining difficulties have to do with the need for certain clarifications in the above-cited text of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 42/227 (see para. 11 above).

17. The first area for clarification concerns whether or not the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses is operative during those times when the General Assembly is actually in session. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, there is nothing to prevent the Secretary-General from entering into commitments under the authority of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses even when the Assembly is in session. In other words, this resolution is not implemented only when the Assembly is not in session. There may be a variety of reasons that would require the Secretary-General to need to enter into commitments on an urgent basis prior to requesting an appropriation from the Assembly (see para. 14 above). The text of paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 42/227 should be refined so as to make this clear.

18. In addition, the above-cited text of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 42/227 (see para. 11), does not take into account the practice that has developed of suspending the session of the Assembly and reconvening it just before the opening of the new session. The result of this practice is that the actual interval between sessions is of very limited duration and, consequently, in most cases, to convene the Assembly would be to resume the session rather than convene a special session.

19. In paragraph 3 of the draft resolution annexed to the present report, an attempt is made to meet the concerns raised in paragraphs 11 to 18 above, by providing that any time in the biennium that a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding $10 million in respect of that decision, then the matter must be brought to the General Assembly if the Assembly is in session. If the Assembly is suspended or not in session, a resumed or special session of the Assembly must be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter.

20. For the reasons given in paragraph 13 above, the Advisory Committee does not believe that the elimination of a cumulative limit in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (see annex) should pose a problem. However, the Advisory Committee intends to keep the matter under review with the aim of determining whether a cumulative limit should be imposed in addition to the limit "per decision" recommended by the Committee.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 79.

ANNEX

Text recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the draft resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1990-1991

The General Assembly

1. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the biennium 1990-1991 to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising either during or subsequent to that biennium, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and the provisions of paragraph 3 below, provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

(a) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of $US 3 million in any one year of the biennium 1990-1991, as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security;

(b) Such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by:

(i) The designation of ad hoc judges (Statute of the Court, Article 31), not exceeding a total of $250,000;

(ii) The appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30), or the calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (Statute, Article 50), not exceeding a total of $75,000;

(iii) The holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22), not exceeding a total of $100,000;

(c) Such commitments, in an amount not exceeding $300,000, in the biennium 1990-1991, as the Secretary-General certifies are required for interorganizational security measures pursuant to section IV of General Assembly resolution 36/235 of 18 December 1981;

2. Resolves that the Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the Assembly in respect of such commitments;

3. Decides that, for the biennium 1990-1991, if a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding $10 million in respect of that decision, the matter shall be brought to the General Assembly or, if the Assembly is suspended or not in session, a resumed or special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.6

Seventh report

From the optical disc pilot project at the United Nations Office at Geneva to an optical disc system for the United Nations

[Original: English]

[7 December 1989]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), entitled "From the optical disc pilot project at UNOG [United Nations Office at Geneva] to an optical disc system for the United Nations", which was transmitted to the General Assembly under cover of a note by the Secretary-General (A/44/684) and a note by the Secretary-General (A/44/684/Add.1), in which he submits his comments on the report of JIU.

2. Background information on the genesis of the optical disc pilot project at the United Nations Office at Geneva is provided in section I of the report of JIU. Section II of the report outlines the project's goals and expectations, equipment used, results, and the potential applications of optical disc technology in the United Nations. Considerations for planning an operational optical disc system are discussed in section III of the report. A discussion of the views and actions of the specialized agencies concerning optical disc technology is contained in section IV of the report.

3. On the basis of its conclusions on the matter, JIU submits three recommendations in paragraph 63 of its report. First, JIU recommends that "a fully operational optical disc system for storage and retrieval of recent and future documentation should be installed in the United Nations Secretariat. The General Assembly may wish to provide in the 1990-1991 budget appropriate resources for such a system". Secondly, and subject to adoption of its first recommendation, JIU recommends that, should Secretariat resources prove insufficient, consideration should be given to "the possibility of contracting out the inputting on optical discs of all existing United Nations documentation which will allow the preservation of the institutional memory of the Organization, the ready availability of all United Nations documentation, and substantial additional savings". The third recommendation of JIU invites the agencies of the United Nations system, when considering the possibility of installing operational systems of their own, to utilize the results of the pilot project at the United Nations Office at Geneva and to bear in mind the paramount need for cost-effectiveness and equipment compatibility.

4. On the basis of July 1989 estimates prepared by the Budget Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, JIU, in paragraph 37 of its report and in the annex thereto, estimates the prospective cost of installing a fully operational optical disc system in the United Nations Secretariat in the biennium 1990-1991 at $US 2.5 million. With regard to the possibility of contracting out in the biennium 1990-1991 the inputting of the backlog of existing documents on optical discs, a one-time cost of $US 4 to 5 million is projected in paragraph 43 of the report. Concomitant projections of potential savings in future bienniums that could result from the introduction of the optical disc system are referred to in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the report.

5. In a note to the General Assembly (A/44/684/Add.1), the Secretary-General submitted his comments on the recommendations of JIU concerning the establishment of a fully operational optical disc system in the Secretariat. While broadly agreeing with the recommendations of JIU on the subject, the Secretary-General considers, for reasons stated in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the note, that if approved by the General Assembly, a more measured development of the system involving a phased approach over two bienniums (1990-1991 and 1992-1993) would be appropriate. In this connection, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the adoption of such a phased approach would entail additional resources totalling approximately $1.2 million for the biennium 1990-1991, as compared with the cost projection of JIU of $2.5 million for installing a fully operational system in the biennium 1990-1991. Representatives of the Secretary-General also informed the Committee that should such a phased approach be adopted, it would be possible to identify, at this stage, some $212,000 in resources for acquisition and replacement of other equipment included under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget that could be redeployed to finance part of the estimated requirement of $1.2 million in the biennium 1990-1991. However, they expressed the view that the balance of some $1 million would be a charge against the contingency fund.

6. The Advisory Committee has consistently encouraged and supported the introduction and use of technological innovations whenever it can be demonstrated that their application can reasonably be expected to result in improved productivity, efficiency and/or savings in staff and non-staff costs. In this instance, the Committee fully shares the conclusion of JIU and the Secretary-General that optical disc technology is one that holds great promise for the Organization and should be utilized. At the same time, the Committee is conscious of the financial situation of the Organization. The Committee also notes that general use and availability of optical disc technology are still nascent. Moreover, the Committee points out that while reference is made in the report of the JIU and in the Secretary-General's note to the potential convenience and savings to the missions of States Members of the United Nations resulting from the introduction and use of such technology in the Secretariat, there is no concomitant indication of the minimum level of prospective resource investment required of each mission in order to have access to and benefit from this technology. The Committee trusts that this information will be developed shortly and communicated to Member States.

7. Bearing in mind the considerations stated in paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the establishment of an optical disc system in the Secretariat. However, the system should be implemented on a phased basis, taking into account the availability of funds and in light of technological developments (see para. 6 above). The Committee does not believe there is need for an additional appropriation in the biennium 1990-1991 for this purpose. Instead, the 1990-1991 requirements, estimated at $1.2 million, should be financed from redeployment of resources and other savings in the proposed programme budget, as well as from the programme support component of extrabudgetary funds. In addition, the Secretary-General should explore further possibilities of voluntary contributions in cash and/or in kind towards the optical disc system. Resource requirements for the system in the biennium 1992-1993 should be proposed by the Secretary-General in the context of his proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.7

Eighth report

Extrabudgetary resources

[Original: English]

[8 December 1989]

1. In its first reports on the proposed programme budgets for the biennia 1988-1989 and 1990-1991, 1/ the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions made a number of observations regarding the extrabudgetary side of United Nations expenditure, including the need to define precisely the role of extrabudgetary financing in the overall structure of the United Nations. The Committee also drew attention to the need for improved approval and reporting mechanisms so as to ensure that extrabudgetary expenditures "are subject to a greater measure of scrutiny and control". 2/ In this connection, the Committee, in paragraph 84 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, requested a report by 15 October 1989 on remedial and preventive measures taken in this regard.

2. The Secretary-General has reported to the Advisory Committee as requested. In this connection, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the major problems that need to be addressed include the lack of awareness of the existing rules on the part of all concerned, and the lack of awareness of regulations and internal procedures governing the acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary funds. Among those procedures is the approval process and, in this connection, the Committee understands that approval for the establishment of a trust fund is sometimes sought after the activities being financed by the extrabudgetary funds have already commenced. Representatives of the Secretary-General also acknowledged that the reporting mechanisms in place are inadequate; furthermore, this problem is exacerbated because authority to establish and implement trust funds has been delegated to offices away from Headquarters, that is the process of decentralization has hampered proper reporting.

3. As a first step in addressing the above problems and others, the Secretary-General is taking measures to ensure that each person involved in the acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary resources is fully informed on all aspects of the issue and is aware of the duties, authority and responsibilities in this regard. All senior officials and programme managers have also been alerted that full co-operation will be needed in order to improve and refine the process of acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary resources.

4. In this connection, representatives of the Secretary-General provided the Advisory Committee with an inventory of issues (annexed to the present report), which must be dealt with systematically in order to bring about the desired improvements. The Committee was also informed that the Secretary-General will submit a report on the progress achieved in this regard to it and to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in time for the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly; the Secretary-General will also report periodically thereafter to the Advisory Committee on subsequent progress in implementing the measures envisaged.

5. The Advisory Committee believes that the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General (see the annex to the present report) is, in general, acceptable.

However, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should also include measures for the development of a mechanism for ensuring that the unreimbursed use of regular budget staff and resources for extrabudgetary activities is minimized to the extent possible. As indicated in paragraph 89 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 3/ the Committee "has noted a number of instances where it believes that the division of costs to be paid from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary funds should be more proportionate to their respective levels of activity"; it therefore "intends to monitor this situation closely so as to ensure as much as possible that the full costs of extrabudgetary activities, including administration and backstopping, are borne by extrabudgetary funds".

6. The Advisory Committee also requests that the above-mentioned progress report include information on the growth of extrabudgetary resources since the biennium 1980-1981, and, to the extent possible, on the utilization of these funds by object of expenditure and sector of activity. The progress report should also indicate how the Secretary-General intends to convey information on additional extrabudgetary resources received during the course of a biennium (see para. 15 below), since, as stated in paragraph 85 of the Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the receipt of additional extrabudgetary resources has an impact on the work programme.

7. In paragraph 86 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the Advisory Committee pointed out that "adequate control of extrabudgetary expenditure not only involves the Secretary-General, but should also directly involve in some form the intergovernmental bodies". The Committee, in paragraph 88, therefore requested the Secretary-General to prepare "a list of the extrabudgetary funds and programmes (which could consist of several funds with a similar purpose), ... which are not currently subject to review and approval by an intergovernmental body, together with suggestions for the most efficient means of enabling the Advisory Committee to review the attendant administrative and budgetary arrangements".

8. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that while many extrabudgetary funds are administered through the trust fund mechanism (as discussed above), other funds, such as those channelled through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), are not. The Advisory Committee notes that extrabudgetary expenditures for UNRWA in 1990 and 1991 are estimated at $486 million. With regard to trust funds, it is generally possible to distinguish between two types: (a) those which provide technical co-operation assistance to developing countries; and (b) those which support or supplement the substantive work programmes of the Organization. The Committee was informed that 106 substantive trust funds existed as at 31 December 1988; the biennial expenditure (1 January 1988 to 30 June 1989) of those funds totalled some $325 million.

9. The review of extrabudgetary programmes varies. Technical co-operation trust funds, in so far as they are programmed as an integral part of the overall budget preparation for the organizational unit concerned, lend themselves to a greater measure of intergovernmental scrutiny. For example, the intergovernmental review of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions considers the work programme of those entities as a whole without distinction between the resources derived from the regular budget and those from extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee intends to scrutinize proposed expenditures

related to those funds in the context of its examination of proposed programme budgets (see para. 13 below).

10. In considering the most efficient means of enabling it to review the administrative and budgetary arrangements of extrabudgetary funds, the Advisory Committee notes that there are a number of factors to take into account in determining the nature of such a review. One possible criterion to determine which trust funds would be examined by the Advisory Committee could be the level of biennial expenditure of each fund. Thus, for example, if the biennial expenditure level was set at a minimum of $100,000, 52 out of the above-mentioned 106 substantive trust funds, based on the expenditure data for the period 1 January 1988 to 30 June 1989, would be subject to review by the Advisory Committee.

11. The Committee notes, however, that a large trust fund may not, for various reasons, reflect correspondingly large expenditures in a given biennium, and conversely a small fund can have a very active expenditure pattern. Moreover, the aggregate for a number of small trust funds related to the same or similar activities could be quite large. Thus, while size of fund and expenditure should be taken into account, they should not be the sole determining factors. Another criterion could be the extent to which a fund/programme is reviewed by an intergovernmental body; however, as mentioned above, the Committee understands that such reviews may not necessarily be administrative and budgetary in nature.

12. In the circumstances, the Committee believes that, at this stage, it should look at most extrabudgetary funds in the context of the proposed programme budget (see para. 13 below). In this connection, the Secretary-General, as a first step, has proposed to complement the type of data contained in annex VIII to the introduction to the proposed programme budget with relevant narrative information. The Committee was also informed that the introduction to the proposed programme budget could be expanded to include a specific section on extrabudgetary resources that would summarize certain programmatic aspects of these activities, their resource levels and the number of posts to be financed from various sources. The possibility of revising reports on budget performance to include additional information on the acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary resources, especially to reflect revised revenue forecast and expenditure projections was also mentioned to the Committee.

13. The Advisory Committee believes that the Secretary-General is on the right track. In this connection, the Committee recommends that the information on extrabudgetary resources included in the proposed programme budgets should be structured in such a way so as to permit an examination of the trust funds and extrabudgetary programmes by the Advisory Committee and to enable it to comment with specificity on proposals related to the administrative and/or support costs of the activities concerned, including the creation of new posts. The information provided should contain a clear indication of the role of the extrabudgetary resources in implementing approved programmes of work or in initiating new activities; it should also include sufficient programmatic and substantive information so as to enable the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to undertake an examination of the trust funds in the context of its review of the entire programme budget. At the same time, interested intergovernmental bodies would have access to information to enable an examination of extrabudgetary funds within their sector of activity.

14. The Advisory Committee requests that the Secretary-General report on the progress made in this regard in the context of his progress report to be submitted before the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly (see para. 4 above). As shown in the annex to the present report, that report will also address the question of the redesign of programming and budgeting methodology covering the forecasting, presentation and revisions of extrabudgetary resource projections and expenditures.

15. As mentioned above, the Secretary-General has also suggested the use of the budget performance reports to supplement information contained in the programme budgets. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, this is important since, as it pointed out in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 3/ extrabudgetary resources received during the course of a biennium can have an impact not only on the work programme but on the ordering of priorities as well (see also para. 6 above).

16. In making the above recommendation, the Advisory Committee also notes that there are a number of larger extrabudgetary programmes; some, like the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, are trust funds, and others, such as UNRWA, are not. The Advisory Committee believes that the treatment of larger extrabudgetary programmes should be different, perhaps more in keeping with the reviews that the Committee conducts vis-à-vis the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund or the budgets of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Children's Fund, whereby the Committee submits a report to the governing bodies of those organizations. Accordingly, in the months ahead, the Committee intends to look into this matter and meet with officials concerned in order to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (at the same time it submits its observations on the Secretary-General's progress report) (see paras. 4, 6 and 14 above).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7) and ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7), para. 2.

3/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 and corrigenda (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2).

ANNEX

Issues to be addressed in the progress report of the Secretary-General

1. The review of existing regulations, rules, Secretary-General's Bulletins, administrative instructions and internal procedures that will refine the approval and reporting mechanisms and ensure a greater measure of scrutiny and control over extrabudgetary resources.

2. The re-examination of how the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance of the Secretariat undertakes monitoring, accounting and reporting on the acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary resources.

3. The examination and redesign of programming and budgeting methodology covering the forecasting, presentation and revision of extrabudgetary resource projections and expenditures.

4. The review of existing allotment, obligating, expending and accounting procedures applicable to extrabudgetary resources.

5. The re-examination of the present procedures covering the creation and authorization of posts funded from extrabudgetary resources with a view to strengthening or revising these procedures, as necessary.

6. The assessment of staffing needs and organizational structures at offices away from Headquarters as they relate to the management of extrabudgetary resources, so as to ensure that the necessary skills, experience and competence exist in those offices to support the decentralization of authority and responsibility to programme managers.

7. The development and design of courses on the proper procedures covering the acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary resources for administrative and finance staff, as well as an appropriate component on extrabudgetary resources for inclusion in all future staff orientation courses.

8. The examination, in detail, of the names or titles assigned to the various United Nations extrabudgetary accounts so as to improve their clarity, coherence, consistency and compatibility.

9. The review of inactive extrabudgetary accounts or funds in order to close and eliminate those no longer operative or required.

10. The request to both the external and internal auditors to increase the attention devoted to the acceptance and utilization of extrabudgetary resources within the scope of their regular audit of United Nations activities.

DOCUMENT A/44/7/Add.8

Ninth report

Revised estimates arising from implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988

[Original: English]

[18 December 1989]

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/51) on the revised estimates arising from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988 and Security Council resolution 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989 concerning the situation in Central America. During its consideration of the report, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. The introduction to the Secretary-General's report summarizes the background to the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN). As indicated therein and noted by the Security Council in its resolution 637 (1989), ONUVEN was established at the request of the Government of Nicaragua.

3. As described in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, in September 1989, the Secretary-General sought and received the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into commitments under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/227 of 21 December 1987 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1988-1989 for an amount not to exceed $3,463,200 for the period up to 31 December 1989. The Advisory Committee notes that this amount has since been revised downwards to $3,166,700 and is reflected in the final performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (see A/C.5/44/35/Add.2 (Part I)). A breakdown of the estimates by object of expenditure is contained in annex I to the Secretary-General's report.

4. In paragraph 7 of his report (A/C.5/44/51) and in annex III thereto, the Secretary-General discusses the staffing requirements for ONUVEN. As indicated in annex III, a total of 227 staff will be required for the period from 1 January through 30 April 1990. However, the bulk of the staff will be required for a limited time during the immediate period of the election in February 1990. Provision has also been made for 10 staff members (4 Professional and 6 local staff) to be maintained after the election through the end of April 1990 to cover the period until the newly elected government assumes office on 25 April 1990.

5. In paragraphs 9 and 10 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the requirements of ONUVEN for the period from 1 January to 30 April 1990 are estimated at $2,398,300 of which "all but $139,300 relates to personnel costs such as salaries, fees, travel and related allowances". As indicated in the table in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report and in annex II thereto, of the remaining $139,300, $63,000 relates to commercial communications charges, including satellite, telephone, pouch, etc. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8 of the report and annex IV thereto that the communication equipment required for

ONUVEN was purchased during 1989. Similarly, 30 vehicles which were required for the duration of ONUVEN were also purchased in 1989. The Advisory Committee understands that additional vehicles, which will be required for the third phase of ONUVEN, will be loaned to it by other United Nations agencies at no additional cost. The Advisory Committee inquired regarding the disposal of equipment at the end of ONUVEN, and was informed that vehicles, communications equipment and office furniture, if viable, would be transferred to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). The Advisory Committee intends to examine this matter in the context of its review of the performance report to be submitted on ONUCA in the spring of 1990.

6. As indicated in paragraphs 11 and 12 of his report, the Secretary-General is of the view that the revised estimates required for ONUVEN relate "clearly to circumstances of an extraordinary nature, relating to maintenance of peace and security, and should thus be treated outside the procedures related to the contingency fund".

7. The Advisory Committee concurs with the above-stated opinion of the Secretary-General and recommends that an additional non-recurrent appropriation of $2,398,300 should be approved under section 2A (Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. In addition, an additional appropriation of $193,300 should be approved under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Annex

REPORTS PRESENTED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/44/L.17, concerning agenda item 32*

1. At the 20th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions said that in the draft resolution contained in document A/44/L.17 the Secretary-General was requested to encourage the early realization of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan in accordance with the provisions of the Agreements on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan a/ draft resolution. In his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/15), the Secretary-General had noted that the request related to his good offices functions. A similar request had been made in General Assembly resolution 43/20 of 3 November 1988, and the administrative and logistical support for implementation of that mandate had been provided by the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), the budgetary provisions for which extended through 31 December 1989. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution under consideration, the Secretary-General would be required to provide, for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1990, the administrative and logistical support hitherto provided by UNGOMAP, entailing additional requirements of $5,813,800. That amount would finance posts for the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General (at the Assistant Secretary-General level) and supporting staff in the mission area (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 8 FS, 5 GS (Other level) and 13 local level) as well as at Headquarters (1 P-4 and 1 GS (Other level)). The appropriation would also cover the costs of logistical support indicated in the annex to document A/C.5/44/15. If the budgetary authorization for UNGOMAP were to be extended, the Secretary-General would continue to rely, to the extent possible, on the administrative and logistical support of UNGOMAP. The aforementioned additional requirements would then be adjusted appropriately, in order to avoid any double budgeting.

2. The Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General that the activities called for under the draft resolution related to the maintenance of peace and security, that they were of an extraordinary nature and that, therefore, in accordance with annex I, paragraph 11, of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, they should not be financed from the contingency fund for the biennium 1990-1991. It was, accordingly, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the Fifth Committee should inform the Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/44/L.17, an additional appropriation in the amount of $5,813,800 would be required under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and that an additional appropriation of $286,800 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). (See A/C.5/44/SR.20, paras. 27 and 28.)

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* The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/44/L.12 and the draft decision contained in document A/44/L.13, concerning agenda item 157*

3. At the 26th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications before the Committee (A/C.5/44/19) was the first one to be submitted under the new procedures for the contingency fund. Under the draft resolution contained in document A/44/L.12, the General Assembly would decide to hold a special session to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs. Under the draft decision contained in document A/44/L.13, the special session would be held at Headquarters from 20 to 23 February 1990 and a Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Seventeenth Special Session would meet for two days during the first week of December 1989 and for three days during the first week of February 1990.

4. The full cost of the activities which the Secretary-General considered necessary in order to implement the draft resolution and the draft decision was broken down in paragraph 9 of his statement and amounted to $124,400 for 1989 and $960,700 for 1990. The entire amount for 1989 covered conference-servicing costs. As noted in paragraph 10 of the statement, the holding of the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole in December 1989 would require the General Assembly's approval of an exception to the provisions of section I, paragraph 7, of Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, according to which no subsidiary organ of the Assembly might meet at Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly. If such an exception was granted, the conference-servicing costs of $124,400 for 1989 could be met from existing resources, on the understanding that the activities of the Assembly and its Main Committees would not be impeded.

5. The additional requirement of $960,700 for 1990 comprised $672,700 for conference-servicing costs and $288,000 for other costs. The latter amount included $195,800 in travel costs for representatives of the least developed countries and $13,200 in travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for five staff members from the United Nations Office at Vienna. The balance of $79,000 related to the public information costs described in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications.

6. The Secretary-General considered that no additional resources would be required under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution and the draft decision because provision had already been made for the 1990 conference-servicing costs. However, the Secretary-General noted in paragraph 13 of his statement of programme budget implications that no provision had been made in the proposed programme budget for the other costs of $288,000. In other words, those costs amounted to additional expenditures not provided for in the proposed programme budget and therefore fell under the procedure for the

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* Special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation.

contingency fund set out in section C of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987. In paragraphs 15 and 16 of his statement of programme budget implications, the Secretary-General indicated that with the exception of the public information activities, which came under section 27 (Public information) he could not propose the modification of any activity of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 in order to finance the new activities.

7. The Advisory Committee had no objections to the Secretary-General's estimates of the additional requirements deriving from the draft resolution and the draft decision. It therefore recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/44/L.12 and draft decision A/44/L.13, the holding of the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole in December 1989 would constitute an exception to the provisions of section I, paragraph 7, of resolution 40/243; additional resource requirements in 1990 would arise in the amount of $288,000, broken down thus: $195,800 under section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination), $13,200 under section 20 (International drug control), and $79,000 under section 27 (Public information); those requirements would constitute additional expenditures not provided for in the proposed programme budget and would therefore be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund set out in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987; if the requirements could not be met from the contingency fund, no redeployment of resources or modification of activities was envisaged, except under section 27; accordingly, it might be necessary to postpone the special session if it was not possible to finance from the contingency fund the additional requirements specified above.

8. The Fifth Committee should also inform the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution and the draft decision would be subject to the understanding just outlined, in accordance with section C, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211, and that such additional appropriations as might be required would be indicated by the Secretary-General in a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates b/ to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the session, in accordance with section C, paragraph 5, of the annex to resolution 42/211. (See A/C.5/44/SR.26, paras. 1-6.)

Administration of justice in the Secretariat

9. At the 28th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Secretary-General's report on the administration of justice in the Secretariat (A/C.5/44/9) had been drawn up in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 43/224 B of 21 December 1988, by which the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to establish by the end of 1989 a fully revised internal justice system, to finish putting in place improved disciplinary rules and procedures at the earliest stage, as well as revised appellate procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session. In section I of the report, which dealt with improvements in the area of appeals, it was stated that the appellate machinery and procedures had been streamlined in 1988: a redistribution of responsibilities between the offices responsible for conducting the administrative reviews of staff appeals and providing secretarial services to the Joint Appeals Board (JAB) had been carried out, while the presentation of responses to statements of appeal and the consideration of new appeals had become more timely. The Advisory Committee

noted that revised procedures had been codified and adopted in 1989 by the Headquarters JAP, as its rules of procedure. According to the Secretary-General, the procedural improvements had been in part responsible for the reduction in the size and age of the JAB case-load and in this connection, the Advisory Committee noted from paragraph 6 of the report that the number of pending appeals had been reduced to 30 and that the backlog of cases pending or more that one year had been virtually eliminated. As stated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report, his policy of accepting unanimous JAB reports, except where a major question of law or principle was involved, continued to be applied. The Advisory Committee believed that that policy, for its part, had also helped to improve the system.

10. The revised procedures adopted at Headquarters had subsequently been transmitted to the joint appeals boards at other duty stations for their consideration and possible use. The Advisory Committee noted that by September 1989 the number of cases pending before the Geneva Joint Appeals Board had been reduced to 30 and that the Vienna and Nairobi joint appeals boards each had only two cases pending. The Advisory Committee welcomed the progress which had been reported by the Secretary-General in the area of appeals and hoped that efforts would continue to be made to ensure the smooth operation of the system and the optimum use of resources. In that connection, the Advisory Committee hoped that, in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1992-1993, it would be provided with figures for the resources allocated for the administration of justice.

11. Section II of the Secretary-General's report dealt with the disciplinary process, the current phase of the reform process. It was pointed out that the reform process had begun in 1987 and had culminated in the drafting of a completely revised set of disciplinary rules which the Secretary-General intended to promulgate, effective 1 January 1990, to replace chapter X of the Staff Rules. The revised rules were set out in annex I to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/44/2) containing amendments to the Staff Rules. The Advisory Committee noted the statement in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report on the administration of justice in the Secretariat (A/C.5/44/9) that the promulgation of the revised rules and procedures in a specific area of the administration of justice did not mark the end of the process in that area and that it would be necessary to monitor their implementation in order to assess their effectiveness in the light of practical experience.

12. As explained in section III of document A/C.5/44/9, the Panel of Counsel had continued to assist staff members in preparing their statements of appeal and in providing appropriate counselling, thus obviating the need for formal appeals. The Advisory Committee noted that the amicable settlement of grievances had also been achieved through the intervention of grievance panels at both Headquarters and other duty stations. The Committee also noted that that procedure was designed to supplement, rather than replace, the formal procedures of the JAB, the Administrative Tribunal and specialized appeals bodies. The Secretary-General indicated in that connection that the next phase of the reform process would focus on the improvement of informal procedures for the amicable resolution of staff grievances. (See A/C.5/44/SR.28, paras. 45-48.)

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the reports of the International Civil Service Commission and of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

13. At the 31st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, in accordance with past practice, the Secretary-General had submitted a statement (A/C.5/44/18) on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission c/ and of the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. d/ The Advisory Committee had found no reason to object to the calculations of costs indicated in the statement. Normally, it would have prepared a written report. Since, however, the cost estimates were likely to be revised in the light of forthcoming decisions by the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee felt it would be prudent to call for a further statement of programme budget implications based on the draft resolution which the Fifth Committee eventually would prepare. It would then make recommendations as to the actual additional amounts required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

14. The Chairman drew the attention of the Fifth Committee to the Advisory Committee's report (A/44/682) on the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. As stated in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report, the financial implications of the recommendations made by the Pension Board would amount to $17.2 million yearly for all the organizations of the common system. The share of that amount to be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations would be some $4 million yearly. Those figures were in agreement with the figures given in paragraphs 3 and 28 of document A/C.5/44/18. (See A/C.5/44/SR.31, paras. 46 and 47.)

Publications of the International Court of Justice

15. At the 32nd meeting, in the context of his comments on section 25 (International Court of Justice) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that, as indicated in the note by the Secretary-General on the publications of the Court (A/C.5/44/13), the Court maintained its position vis-à-vis the recommendations regarding its publications made by the Joint Inspection Unit. e/ In paragraph 11 of document A/C.5/44/13 the Secretary-General also indicated that, in the circumstances, he did not intend to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of that paragraph. (See A/C.5/44/SR.32, para. 71.)

Integrated management information system project: progress report

16. At the 34th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in the context of his comments on section 28A (Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, noted that an appropriation of $3,425,700 had been made for the development of the integrated management information system (IMIS) in 1989. However, as stated in the Secretary-General's progress report (A/C.5/44/8), little of that appropriation had been spent. The Chairman also noted that the

Secretary-General proposed to put the balance of the appropriation into a separate account and carry it forward from one year to the next until phase I of the project was completed.

17. As pointed out in the Secretary-General's progress report, the only major change in the project stemmed from the fact that the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had not agreed on United Nations acquisition of the FAO information system: the United Nations would therefore develop its own system, and the initial appropriation for purchasing FAO software would be spent instead on the development of IMIS. Lengthy negotiations with FAO had delayed the project by six months, but that delay need not be of particular concern. Indeed, the United Nations might ultimately benefit from developing its own system using the very latest technology. The Advisory Committee concurred with the Secretariat's decision not to engage in protracted negotiations with FAO. It recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the progress report of the Secretary-General. (See A/C.5/44/SR.34, paras. 16 and 19.)

International Computing Centre: 1990 budget estimates

18. At the 34th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in the context of his comments on section 28D (Office of General Services, Headquarters) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, noted that the 1990 budget estimates for the International Computing Centre were contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/4). The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the Secretary-General's estimate of 16,215,000 Swiss francs, corresponding to $11,260,400. That appropriation would involve no change in the estimates in the proposed programme budget which had already been submitted under section 28D and section 28F (Administration and common services, Geneva). (See A/C.5/44/SR.34, para. 44.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/44/L.23, concerning agenda item 31*

19. At the 40th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, referring to the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/25) of the draft resolution contained in document A/44/L.23, said that the activities covered by section I of the statement would not give rise to any additional costs, since they had been programmed under section 3E (South-East Asia: Political and humanitarian affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

20. With regard to the activities dealt with in section II of his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that it was difficult at the current stage to estimate with any degree of certainty what resources would be required. Should a decision be reached in the course of 1990 to reconvene the International Conference on Kampuchea or to organize any other international conference on the question, he would endeavour to accommodate the requirements from within the resources programmed under sections 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) and 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the

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* The situation in Kampuchea.

biennium 1990-1991. If those resources proved to be insufficient, the Secretary-General would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into the necessary commitments. The Advisory Committee was in agreement with this procedure.

21. In section III of the statement, concerning the good offices of the Secretary-General, it was indicated that resources totalling $833,600 had been included in the proposed programme budget under section 3E and that an effort would therefore be made to accommodate the activities in question from within the resources already requested. The Advisory Committee trusted that every effort would be made in order to ensure, as far as possible, that no additional resources would be required.

22. With regard to the activities referred to in section IV of the statement, related resource requirements in the amount of $371,100 had also been proposed under section 3E of the proposed programme budget. It was estimated that those resources would be sufficient to accommodate the activities as proposed in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution.

23. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/44/L.23, no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. (See A/C.5/44/SR.40, paras. 74-78.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/44/736 and Corr.1, para. 13), concerning agenda item 108*

24. At the 43rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/28), the costs associated with the implementation of the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, as adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and subsequently amended by the Third Committee, should be met from the regular budget of the Organization. In paragraphs 6 to 12 of his statement, the Secretary-General outlined the activities by which the requests contained in the draft resolution would be implemented. A meeting of the States parties to the Convention would be convened for one day in 1991 to elect members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which, in accordance with article 43 of the Convention, would consist of 10 experts and would meet annually at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. However, the Secretary-General believed that the principles embodied in section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 should be observed and that, consequently, the Committee should meet at the headquarters of its substantive secretariat, i.e., Geneva, and that that understanding should be reflected in the calendar of conferences for future bienniums. Accordingly, the Secretary-General, subject to the entry into force of the Convention and the election of Committee members, intended to convene the first regular session of the Committee for a period of three weeks during the first half of 1991 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. Travel and subsistence costs, estimated at $55,000, would need to be paid for the 10 members.

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* Adoption of a convention on the rights of the child.

25. Article 43 of the Convention, as amended, also stated that the Secretary-General should provide the necessary staff and facilities for effective performance of the functions of the Committee. It was the Secretary-General's view that those services could not be ensured without additional staffing resources being made available to the Centre for Human Rights. Since the Convention was not expected to enter into force until 1991, and the programme of work of the Committee had yet to be established, the Secretary-General proposed to provide for an amount of $119,000 under temporary assistance in 1991 equivalent to 12 work-months at the Professional level and 6 work-months at the General Service level. Subsequent requirements would be presented to the General Assembly in the context of future budget proposals.

26. Article 43, as amended, further stated that, with the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee should receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly might decide. The Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly might wish to be guided by its resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980 in determining the level of such emoluments. Under the terms of resolution 35/218, an amount of $5,000 per year was provided to the Chairman and $3,000 per year to each of the members of the Human Rights Committee, which appeared to have been entrusted with functions similar to those that the Convention would entrust to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Pending a decision by the Assembly, an amount of $32,000 has been provisionally included in the statement of programme budget implications.

27. The full cost of requirements in respect of the activities provided for in the Convention amounted to $984,500 for conference-servicing costs and $206,000 for other costs. For the reasons set forth in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's statement, it was estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. With regard to other costs, section 23 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget contained a provision in the amount of $1,685,300 for activities in the field of human rights which might be mandated by the Economic and Social Council during its regular sessions. In the view of the Secretary-General, the amount required in respect of other costs should be covered by that provision, thus making it unnecessary to request an additional appropriation. As for the information contained in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's statement, the Advisory Committee had subsequently been informed that no additional appropriation would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) of the proposed programme budget.

28. The Advisory Committee recalled that, under General Assembly resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968 and as reaffirmed in Assembly resolution 35/218, neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances at the standard rate should normally be paid to members of organs or subsidiary organs other than as the result of an explicit decision by the Assembly. The Advisory Committee was of the view that, should the Assembly decide to pay the proposed emoluments, they should be no greater than those paid to members of the Human Rights Committee. It also noted that the Secretary-General's proposal to meet the requirement under other costs from the provision for potential mandates from the Economic and Social Council was subject to the General Assembly's approval of estimates under section 23, inclusive of that provision, and that the expenditure under consideration was subject to the entry into force of the Convention. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the Assembly that, should it decide to pay the proposed emoluments, the sum

involved would amount to $32,000 and that, should it adopt the draft resolution in question, no additional appropriations would be required under either section 23 or section 29. (See A/C.5/44/SR.43, paras. 18-22.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/44/L.26, L.27, L.29-L.33, L.34/Rev.1, L.36 and L.40, concerning agenda item 28*

29. At the 46th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that, pursuant to the draft resolutions contained in documents A/44/L.33 and A/44/L.40, the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa and the Commission against Apartheid in Sports would hold sessions in 1990. In paragraphs 23 and 30 of the statement of the programme budget implications of the 10 draft resolutions concerning the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa (A/C.5/44/29), the Secretary-General indicated that the conference-servicing requirements could be accommodated from within the permanent resources of the Department of Conference Services of the Secretariat under section 29 (conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The additional expenditures which would be incurred in 1990 for the implementation of the activities referred to in the 10 draft resolutions were estimated at $1,589,100. In view of the effective rate of resource utilization during the three preceding bienniums, that amount had been reduced to $1,427,900; as it related mainly to continuing activities, it was set against the estimates for 1990 under section 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) and section 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget. However, in view of the new activities, especially in the field of information, additional financing would be required in an amount of $247,000: $142,500 under section 3 and $104,500 under section 27. Since the Secretary-General proposed to finance the additional requirements under section 3 (142,500) by using in 1990 a part of the provision for 1991, no additional appropriation would be required under section 3. Nevertheless, there might be a need for subsequent recourse to the contingency fund should the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, authorize for 1991 activities at a cost higher than the balance remaining under section 3A.3 (Apartheid: Special Committee and other bodies).

30. The provision for 1990 under section 27 would not be sufficient to accommodate the information activities requested in the draft resolutions. If the additional requirement (104,500) could not be financed from the contingency fund, the Secretary-General proposed, pursuant to the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987, to defer until the biennium 1992-1993 the activities referred to in paragraph 38 of document A/C.5/44/29.

31. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. It recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, if it adopted the 10 draft resolutions, no additional provision under section 3 would be required at the present stage in view of the proposals made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 35 of his statement of programme budget implications. The additional expenditure under section 27 (104,500) could be financed in accordance with the procedure for the operation of the contingency fund adopted by the Assembly in section C of the annex to its resolution 42/211. Accordingly, the additional requirement requested by the Secretary-General would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates b/ to be submitted to the Assembly at a later stage. (See A/C.5/44/SR.46, paras. 1-3.)

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* Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/44/723, para. 8), concerning agenda item 143*

32. At the 48th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that under the terms of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that an international conference of plenipotentiaries would be convened at Vienna from 2 to 19 April 1991 to consider the draft Convention on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade and would request the Secretary-General to invite representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity to participate in the conference in the capacity of observers. The conference-servicing requirements were estimated at $1,635,200. As stated in paragraph 6 of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/26), no additional appropriations would be required under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. On the other hand, additional resources would have to be provided to cover travel and subsistence costs of the Legal Counsel ($3,100) and of representatives ($17,100). Those costs, totalling $20,200, would be dealt with in accordance with the procedures for the use of the contingency fund set out in section C of annex I to Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987. However, as was indicated in paragraph 10 of the statement, in the event that the additional resources required could not be financed from the contingency fund, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to reduce the attendance of staff at sessions of working and study groups and to redeploy the resources thus made available to meet those additional costs.

33. The Advisory Committee thereofre recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution in question, an additional expenditure of $20,200 would arise and would be dealt with in accordance with the procedures for the use of the contingency fund; that amount would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates b/ which would be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of the session. (See A/C.5/44/SR.48, paras. 50 and 51.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/44/734, para. 14), concerning agenda item 78**

34. At the 48th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution in question, no additional appropriations would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. (See A/C.5/44/SR.48, para. 47.)

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* Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-second session.

** Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/44/781, para. 11), concerning agenda item 59*

Programme budget implications of draft resolution F submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/44/786, para. 21), concerning agenda item 64**

35. At the 48th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the two statements of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/36 and A/C.5/44/37) related to the draft resolutions which had been adopted by the First Committee and concerned disarmament issues. The statement in document A/C.5/44/36 concerned draft resolution F on United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament. Such centres had been established in three regions (Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia) by virtue of General Assembly resolutions 40/151 G, 41/60 J and 42/39 D, respectively. The Secretary-General understood that the implementation of paragraph 3 of draft resolution F would entail the establishment under the regular budget of a post of Director (at the P-5 level) at each of the three regional centres. For reasons set out in paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/44/36, the Secretary-General proposed that the establishment of those three posts should be phased sequentially over the period 1990-1992. On that basis, he considered that the establishment of a post of Director at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 1990 and 1991, respectively, would entail additional expenditures amounting to $242,600 for salaries and common staff costs. That amount would arise under section 2B (Disarmament affairs activities) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. Furthermore, additional requirements of $82,400 would arise under section 31 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an identical amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessments). The cost of establishing a post of Director at the Regional Centre in Asia in 1992 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

36. The statement in document A/C.5/44/37 concerned draft resolution A dealing with the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa. The Secretary-General understood that the activities envisaged in the draft resolution would make it necessary to engage three qualified consultant experts, together with the necessary support services. In paragraph 10 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicated that the fees and travel of the three experts, together with the travel and daily subsistence allowance for two staff members from the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, would total $57,800.

37. In paragraphs 12 and 13 of document A/C.5/44/36 and in paragraphs 13 and 14 of document A/C.5/44/37, the Secretary-General indicated that the additional costs which would arise under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (namely, the amount of $242,600 for the establishment of two P-5

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* Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa.

** Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly.

posts and the amount of $57,800 for consultancy fees and common staff costs) represented additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Those expenditures came under the procedure for the use of the contingency fund set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987. In paragraph 14 of document A/C.5/44/36 and in paragraph 15 of document A/C.5/44/37, the Secretary-General indicated that he was not in a position to propose the termination, deferral, curtailment or modification of any activity in the proposed programme budget in order to finance those additional costs. Therefore, should it not be possible to meet the full amount of additional expenditure under section 2B ($300,400) from the contingency fund, the establishment of the posts and the activities envisaged in the two draft resolutions might have to be postponed.

38. That being the case, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt the draft resolutions in question, additional requirements totalling $300,400 would arise under section 2B of the proposed programme budget; furthermore, additional requirements of $82,400 would arise under section 31, to be offset by an identical amount under income section 1. Those additional expenditures would be dealt with in accordance with the procedure for the use of the contingency fund and would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates b/ which would be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of the session. (See A/C.5/44/SR.48, paras. 54-57.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in its report (A/44/768, para. 12), concerning agenda item 146*

39. At the 50th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that by adopting the draft resolution in question, the General Assembly would authorize the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization to hold its next session from 12 February to 2 March 1990 and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. In paragraph 5 of his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/38), the Secretary-General indicated that the related conference-servicing requirements would amount to $242,400; in paragraph 6 of the same statement he indicated, however, that the amounts already provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 would cover those requirements and therefore, if the Assembly adopted the draft resolution, no additional appropriations would be required under section 29 (Conference and library services). The Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly should be so informed. (See A/C.5/44/SR.50, para. 7.)

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* Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/44/746/Add.9, para. 12) concerning agenda item 82 (h)*

40. At the 50th meeting, the Chairmen of the Advisory Committee said that in paragraph 6 of draft resolution II the Secretary-General was requested to make available to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development from the regular budget the extra funds needed to prepare a comprehensive study on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory. The Secretary-General estimated the total requirements for the study of $792,000. Of that sum, $372,000 could be absorbed within the provisions under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for activities relating to the question of Palestine. The balance of $420,000 could not be absorbed and would have to be met from the contingency fund.

41. In his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/39), the Secretary-General indicated that he could not identify any activity for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to finance the additional costs which adoption of the draft resolution would entail. Should it not prove possible to finance the additional $420,000 from the contingency fund, it might be necessary to postpone preparation of the study, as provided for in the guidelines for use of the contingency fund contained in section C of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

42. The Advisory Committee noted that it had originally been expected that the study would be paid for with extrabudgetary funds, but those funds had not materialized. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the study was a complex undertaking involving 18 different subject areas. As the expertise needed to carry out the study could not all be obtained from the resources available under section 15, outside consultants would have to be recruited. The Advisory Committee therefore accepted the Secretary-General's submission.

43. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to additional requirements of $420,000 which would have to be governed by the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund. Such additional appropriations as might be requested by the Secretary-General in that connection would be considered by the Assembly in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates b/ to be submitted by the Secretary-General shortly before the end of the current session. (See A/C.5/44/SR.50, paras. 10-13.)

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* Development and international economic co-operation: human settlements.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/44/L.43-L.45, concerning agenda item 39*

44. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that the programme budget implications of the three draft resolutions on the question of Palestine related to the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People under section I (Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination) and section 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. Those activities entailed conference-servicing requirements of $3,482,300, the details of which were set out in annex V to the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/43), and an additional requirement of $174,600 arising out of the postponements until 1990 of meetings scheduled for 1989; those requirements could be met from resources under section 29 (Conference and library services). The Secretary-General indicated that provisions had already been made for the requirements arising under sections 1 and 27, and that, therefore, no additional appropriation would be required under those sections. In the annexes to his statement, the Secretary-General gave full details of all the various kinds of meetings to be held by the Committee so that they could be included in the calendar of conferences and meetings in future bienniums. (See A/C.5/44/SR.53, para. 23.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution VII submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/44/848, para. 78), concerning agenda item 12**

45. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that as indicated in the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/42), the adoption of draft resolution VII by the General Assembly would entail no additional appropriations in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. (See A/C.5/44/SR.53, para. 19.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/44/850 and Corr.1, para. 35), concerning agenda item 111***

46. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that by paragraph 3 of draft resolution II relating to the international campaign against traffic in drugs, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to co-ordinate at the inter-agency level the development of a United Nations

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* Question of Palestine.

** Report of the Economic and Social Council: measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers.

*** International campaign against traffic in drugs.

system-wide action plan on drug abuse control. The additional requirements at full cost were set out in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/41): conference-servicing costs of $423,000 and other costs (travel and subsistence of 10 experts) of $74,400. The conference-servicing costs would be met from resources under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and no additional appropriation would therefore be required. The other costs, amounting to $74,400, would be governed by the procedure for the use and operation of the contingency fund set out in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987. (See A/C.5/44/SR.53, para. 6.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution III submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/44/850 and Corr.1, para. 35), concerning agenda item 111*

47. At the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee noted that by paragraph 9 of draft reso tion III on the international campaign against traffic in drugs, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to undertake as soon as possible, with the assistance of a group of intergovernmental experts, a study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, and that by paragraph 19 it would express its serious concern at the considerable reduction in the budget and staff of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board.

48. In paragraph 13 of his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/40), the Secretary-General indicated that conference-servicing costs of $490,900 and other costs (travel and subsistence costs for 10 experts) of $82,900 would be necessary to undertake the activities called for in the draft resolution. He further indicated in paragraph 14 that the conference-servicing requirements could be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and that no additional appropriation would therefore be required. The other costs, as the Secretary-General indicated in paragraphs 16 to 18 of his statement, would be covered from the contingency fund, and the Secretary-General intended to report on the extent to which an additional appropriation would be required in the context of his consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates. b/ (See A/C.5/44/SR.53, paras. 1 and 2.)

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* International campaign against traffic in drugs.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/44/L.55 and L.56, and the draft resolution submitted by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in its report, concerning agenda item 18*

49. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/46) dealt with the programme budget implications of three draft resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Draft resolution A/44/L.55 concerned the proposed programme of activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 1990 and the substantive servicing of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Draft resolution A/44/L.56 dealt with information activities concerning decolonization. The third draft resolution was contained in the report of the Special Committee, f/ and related to the proposed programme of activities in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

50. In paragraph 9 of his statement, the Secretary-General had indicated that the meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies at Headquarters were included in the 1990 calendar of conferences and meetings and would be met from the resources programmed under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

51. In paragraph 17 of his statement, the Secretary-General had estimated at $615,800 the conference-servicing cost of holding seminars in the Caribbean and the Asia/Pacific regions and at Headquarters in connection with the programme of activities in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration. However, for the reasons given in paragraph 24, the Secretary-General had stated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the proposed programme budget.

52. Non-conference-servicing costs for activities planned in 1990 under the three draft resolutions were estimated at $972,500 on a full-cost basis, or $744,100 after applying the ratio of actual utilization over the past three bienniums. After setting the figure of $744,100 against the 1990 portion of the provisions made under section 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) and section 27 (Public information) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the Secretary-General had estimated a net requirement of $426,900, comprising $271,800 under section 3 and $155,100 under section 27.

53. In paragraph 26 of his statement, the Secretary-General proposed that the additional estimate of $271,800 under section 3 - which was largely attributable to

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* Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

substantive servicing requirements for two regional seminars to be held in connection with the observance of the thirtieth anniversary - should be financed for the time being from the 1991 portion of the provision made under section 3 of the proposed programme budget. At the same time, the Secretary-General indicated that should the General Assembly decide at its forty-fifth session to authorize activities at a comparable level for 1991, there might be need for recourse to the contingency fund at that time.

54. In paragraphs 27 and 28, the Secretary-General stated that the additional estimate of $155,100 under section 27 would be subject to the guidelines for the contingency fund. In that connection, the Secretary-General identified, in paragraph 29, a number of information activities that could be deferred until the biennium 1992-1993 if the additional requirement of $155,100 could not be financed from the contingency fund.

55. The Advisory Committee had reviewed the supporting information on the activities proposed in the draft resolutions. The Committee had noted that with the exception of the proposed production of information kits not currently programmed under section 27 and the activities proposed in connection with the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, the activities planned for the 1990s were essentially a continuation of activities undertaken in 1989. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had no objection to the estimate of additional requirements arising out of the three draft resolutions and recommended to the General Assembly that no additional requirement should arise under section 3 for the time being. Additional requirements would arise in the amount of $155,100 under section 27, but would be subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund set out in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987. Any additional appropriations requested by the Secretary-General would be examined in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates b/ to be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211. (See A/C.55/44/SR.54, paras. 32-38.)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/44/789, para. 11), concerning agenda item 67*

56. At the 54th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the revised draft resolution in question would have the General Assembly renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and would request that Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during the first half of 1990. The Secretary-General indicated in his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/44) that the additional conference-servicing requirements for the two sessions, on a full-cost basis, would be $700,500, but that no additional appropriations would be required under section 2A (Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities) or 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. (See A/C.5/44/SR.54, para. 26.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution V submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/44/832/Add.1, para. 47), concerning agenda item 12**

57. At the 57th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/48) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution V on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which had been recommended by the Second Committee. Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would authorize the establishment of a Special High-level Council and a Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The requirements for the Special High-level Council, calculated on a full-cost basis, would amount to $103,300, including $67,700 for conference-servicing costs and $35,600 relating to travel and subsistence allowance for members of the Council. The full cost for the Scientific and Technical Committee would be $1,120,600, including $554,000 for conference-servicing costs and $566,600 for travel and daily subsistence allowance for members of the Committee and two staff members from Headquarters.

58. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the statement, the conference-servicing costs for meetings of both the Special High-level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee would be funded from the regular budget. In paragraph 13, it was estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 (Conference and library services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for conference-servicing if the draft resolution was adopted. The Secretary-General stated that travel and per diem requirements for meetings of both the Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee, amounting to $602,200 for the biennium, would be financed from extrabudgetary resources and, therefore, no additional appropriations would be requested from the regular budget.

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* Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

** Report of the Economic and Social Council: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

59. The draft resolution also proposed the establishment of a small secretariat attached to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, which would be responsible for the day-to-day co-ordination of Decade activities and would provide substantive and secretariat support to the Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee. The secretariat would be funded from extrabudgetary resources and, therefore, no additional resources from the regular budget were required. In that connection, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the trust fund for the preparations for the Decade would be converted into a trust fund for the Decade. The Advisory Committee had accepted the proposal by the Secretary-General and, accordingly, recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that if it adopted the draft resolution in question, no additional requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget. (See A/C.5/44/SR.57, paras. 1-3.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution VI submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/44/832/Add.1, para. 47), concerning agenda item 12*

60. At the 57th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that by draft resolution VI the General Assembly would proclaim the period 1991-2000 the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, would proclaim 20 November as Africa Industrialization Day, and would endorse the proposals of the Secretary-General, contained in his report (A/44/812) on the participation of the United Nations in the preparation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. In addition, it would request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Organization of African Unity, the relevant subregional and regional economic groupings in Africa and the United Nations bodies concerned, to undertake the necessary preparations for the Decade. In his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/49), the Secretary-General estimated at $1,345,800, on a full-cost basis, the costs of implementing the activities arising out of the draft resolution. Of that amount, UNIDO would be responsible for $883,900 and the United Nations for $461,900. The Secretary-General indicated that $280,000 of the United Nations portion would be financed from the provision under section 24 (Regular programme of technical co-operation) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, since that amount related to the provision of advisory services for the preparation of country programmes. The balance of $181,900 would have to be provided from the contingency fund. As indicated in paragraphs 9 to 12 of his statement, the Secretary-General therefore intended to include the amount in his consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates, b/ to be examined by the Fifth Committee shortly, when the Committee would be informed of any actual additional appropriations that might be required. (See A/C.5/44/SR.57, para. 9.)

Revised estimates under income section 2 (General income) - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: advance to bring the Common Fund for Commodities into operation

61. At the 58th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that at its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly had appropriated $1,750,500 under

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* Report of the Economic and Social Council: Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000).

section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the programme budget as an advance for the preparatory work to bring the Common Fund for Commodities into operation. The sum was to be repaid as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities. At the same time, the Assembly had approved an amount of $1,750,500 under income section 2 (General income), representing reimbursement of the advance from the Common Fund.

62. The advance had been spent, and the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities had entered into force on 19 June 1989. The administrative expenses of the Fund were, under the Agreement, to be met from the investment revenues of the Fund; the Secretary-General detailed the revenue expected in paragraph 5 of his report (A/C.5/44/47).

63. In order to ensure that the Fund was not put under severe financial constraints by having to repay the entire advance in its first year of operation, the Secretary-General suggested that an amount of $1,750,500 should be included under income section 2 (General income) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, representing full reimbursement of the advance. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's suggestion. (See A/C.5/44/SR.58, paras. 36-38.)

Emoluments of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Secretary-General of the United Nations

64. At the 58th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Fifth Committee would shortly be taking a decision on the report of the International Civil Service Commission. c/ The General Assembly's decision might entail changes in the emoluments of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee was not yet in a position to submit a report to the Assembly. It therefore recommended that it should be understood that, if the Assembly took a decision involving any change in the current emoluments of staff in the Professional and higher categories, the Advisory Committee, on behalf of the Assembly, would early in 1990 approve such purely consequential changes as might be necessary in the remuneration of those three officials, and would report accordingly to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session. (See A/C.5/44/SR.58, para. 44.)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution V submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/44/746/Add.7, para. 55), concerning agenda item 82 (f)*

65. At the 60th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that by adopting the draft resolution in question, the General Assembly would decide to

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* Development and international economic co-operation: environment.

convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development lasting two weeks, to coincide with World Environment Day, 5 June 1992; the Conference would be hosted by the Government of Brazil. The Assembly would also establish a Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which would be authorized to hold one organizational session of two weeks in March 1990 and a final session in New York, and three substantive sessions, one at Nairobi and two at Geneva. The costs of the preparatory process and the Conference itself would be met entirely from the regular budget, and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference would be set up at Geneva, with units in New York and Nairobi.

66. In paragraph 5 of his statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/44/53), the Secretary-General indicated that he could not yet ascertain the additional requirements which adoption of the draft resolution would entail. For the time being, the cost of the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee was estimated at $141,500. Additional requirements could better be determined in the light of the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee during its organizational session. The requirements for the biennium 1990-1991 would be submitted to the General Assembly at a resumed session so that the necessary funds could be appropriated.

67. The Advisory Committee recommended that, for the time being, no additional appropriation should be requested. The costs of the organizational session would be met from section 29 (Conference and library services) or the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. Any additional requirements for the biennium would be identified on the basis of the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee in March 1990, and would be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly at a resumed session. (See A/C.5/44/SR.60, paras. 1-3.)

The contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

68. At the 60th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that activities costing a total of $1,879,500 were to be financed out of the contingency fund. They were broken down by section of the proposed programme budget in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/44/50). The amounts indicated for each item were those previously recommended by the Fifth Committee. The Secretary-General indicated that a balance of $13,120,500 would remain in the contingency fund.

69. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate an amount of $1,879,500 under the various budget sections indicated in paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/44/50. (See A/C.5/44/SR.60, paras. 18 and 19.)

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

70. At the 60th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee said that the Advisory Committee had considered the recosting reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the question (A/C.5/44/52 and Corr.1), submitted to it in accordance with past practice. As a result of that recosting, the Secretary-General was proposing a decrease of $14,398,000 under the expenditure

sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and an increase of $12,603,000 under the income sections. The decrease was attributable to $60,290,100 arising from the application of the revised United Nations operational rates of exchange in effect on 1 December 1989, partially offset by additional requirements amounting to $45,892,100 arising from the application of inflationary assumptions for the biennium 1990-1991 that had been revised mainly on the basis of an upward revision for New York and Geneva.

71. The bulk of the projected savings of $60,290,100 stemmed from currency fluctuations attributable to the increase in the value of the United States dollar against the Swiss franc, the Austrian schilling and the Kenyan shilling.

72. The increased requirements of $45,892,100 included $27,356,100 related to the implementation of the recommendations of the International Service Commission (ICSC) and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (UNJSPB). In that connection, the representatives of the Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee that the calculations for the increase of $19.6 million and $7.8 million for the implementation of the recommendations of ICSC and of UNJSPB, respectively, took full account of the draft resolutions just adopted by the Fifth Committee on those subjects. They had also made available to the Advisory Committee a breakdown of the component elements of those additional requirements in a format comparable to that of paragraph 28 of the Secretary-General's statement of administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations of ICSC and UNJSPB (A/C.5/44/18).

73. With regard to the estimated increase of $12,603,000 under the income sections, it would be noted from annex I to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/44/52 and Corr.1) that it was the net result of the expected increased income from staff assessment and from revenue-producing activities and the projected reduction in general income.

74. The representatives of the Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee, in response to its inquiry, that the projected reduction in general income was largely the result of the downward revision of estimates of reimbursement income from rental of premises, in particular in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

75. The Advisory Committee had found no technical basis for objecting to the Secretary-General's revised estimates and accordingly recommended that the Fifth Committee should adopt the revised budget proposals for the biennium 1990-1991. (See A/C.5/44/SR.60, paras. 29-33.)

Programme budget implications of draft decisions contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

76. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled that the decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and to establish a Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to oversee the organization of the Conference was contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989. In the same resolution the General Assembly had decided that the costs of the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded from the regular budget. The

Assembly also had mandated the establishment of an ad hoc secretariat at Geneva with units in New York and Nairobi and the holding of regional conferences as part of the preparatory process. The Secretary-General's estimates, as contained in his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/44/54) of draft decisions contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee, g/ were, therefore, based on the pattern of the Conference as decided by the Assembly and the Preparatory Committee.

77. The Secretary-General's estimates for the preparation and the holding of the Conference amounted to $15,455,300. Of this amount $10,481,100 related to requirements for the biennium 1990-1991 and $4,974,200 related to requirements for the biennium 1992-1993.

78. The Chairman noted that the largest item of expenditure for this Conference related to temporary posts. As indicated in paragraph 24 of his statement, the Secretary-General had estimated a total of $8,223,300 for this item, of which $5,589,100 would be required in the biennium 1990-1991 and $2,634,200 in 1992. A total of 44 staff, including 20 Professional and above and 24 General Service had been requested; the distribution of those staff among the three centres was outlined in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/44/54. The Advisory Committee found the functional descriptions of these posts to be inadequate.

79. With respect to the request for a post of the Under-Secretary-General level and one at Assistant Secretary-General level, the Advisory Committee pointed out that the provision of two high-echelon posts was not normal for a United Nations conference and from a technical point of view the Advisory Committee questioned the necessity for both posts. However, in view of the scope and nature of the 1992 Conference as compared to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in 1972, the Advisory Committee did not recommend the deletion of one of the two posts. Nevertheless, the Committee was of the view that this provision should not be regarded as a precedent for future conferences.

80. The Advisory Committee did not recommend any reductions with regard to the Professional staff, especially since requirements for the services of consultants had been kept to a minimum by the Secretary-General. However, the Advisory Committee pointed out that there were a considerable number of staff at the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as well as within various units of the Secretariat who dealt with environmental and development issues. The Advisory Committee recommended that the services of these officials should be sought wherever and whenever possible, especially since they were the people who would be charged with carrying out the decisions of the Conference. Should additional requirements arise for New York, for example, where a small number of staff was to handle a considerable number of assignments, the Advisory Committee trusted that these would be met through redeployment rather than through additional recruitment of the travel of staff from Geneva to New York with the attendant travel and per diem expenses.

81. With regard to the General Service staff, the Advisory Committee pointed out that the number being proposed exceeded the number of Professional staff. The Advisory Committee did not believe that the number proposed was justified and accordingly recommended a reduction of eight General Service staff at Geneva, resulting in savings of $1,074,800 of which $733,800 would apply to the biennium 1990-1991 and $341,000 to 1992. As a result of this reduction the total number of staff for the Conference would be 36.

82. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the estimate for temporary posts in 1992 had been prepared on the assumption that staff would be on board for an average of nine months. However, the use of this average had not been fully justified, and the Advisory Committee was of the view that the number of people needed for the entire period would be less than what was implied by the calculation. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that a more realistic average of seven months should be applied to the 36 staff, resulting in savings of $509,600 for 1992.

83. With regard to travel, the Advisory Committee noted that this was shown as three separate items - official travel of staff, travel of technical staff and travel to the Conference - totalling $403,600. In response to a query, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the estimate for official travel of staff was based on multiple trips to 74 countries. The Advisory Committee questioned the practicality of this assumption and believed that many of the objectives of such a programme of travel could be met more efficiently through effective liaison at Geneva, New York and Nairobi, as well as at the regional meetings. The Advisory Committee also believed that economies could be effected in travel of technical staff and in travel to the Conference. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of $50,000 from the Secretary-General's estimate for travel of which $35,000 would apply to the biennium 1990-1991 and $15,000 would apply to 1992.

84. The Secretary-General had estimated an amount of $396,100 for support services, including the acquisition and maintenance of computer and office equipment, and communications. The Advisory Committee believed that economies could be achieved in this area and recommended a reduction of $20,000 in the Secretary-General's estimate - $15,000 for the biennium 1990-1991 and $5,000 for 1992.

85. In this connection, the Advisory Committee had inquired regarding office accomodation, which was not discussed in the Secretary-General's statement. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Government of Switzerland had offered to provide office accommodations for the secretariat of the Conference at Geneva. The Advisory Committee trusted that details of this offer, including any conditions attached, would be made known to the Advisory Committee for its concurrence before any agreement was reached with the Government of Switzerland.

86. In paragraph 18 of his statement, the Secretary-General outlined the public information activities proposed for the Conference, the cost of which was estimated at $750,000. The Advisory Committee requested that the information programme for the Conference be implemented efficiently with a view to achieving some savings in this area.

87. Conference-servicing costs were estimated at $5,019,800, including $3,304,800 for the biennium 1990-1991 and $1,715,000 for 1992. The Advisory Committee noted from paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's statement that the requirements for the biennium 1990-1991 would be absorbed within the programme budget and that therefore no additional resources would be required under section 29 (Conference and library services) in respect of this Conference. Requirements for 1992 would be addressed in the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993.

88. The documentation requirements for the Conference were outlined in paragraph 20 (c) of the Secretary-General's statement. The Advisory Committee

pointed out that a large number of documents was not necessarily an advantage and recalled the decision taken for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972, to reduce the volume of documentation and emphasize the action-oriented nature of the Conference. The Advisory Committee believed that savings in expenditure under this heading could be achieved by following a similar approach for the 1992 Conference.

89. With regard to the question of the financing of the Conference, the Advisory Committee took note of the request of the Secretary-General in paragraphs 27 to 30 of his statement to draw from the contingency fund and the reasons therefor. The Advisory Committee agreed that such additional appropriations as would be necessary should have first call on the contingency fund as it related to decisions of the forty-fourth session. However, the Advisory Committee believed that at the current stage the General Assembly need only authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments and that such appropriations as might be necessary should be approved by the Assembly towards the close of the forty-fifth session, on the basis of actual requirements and taking into account offsetting savings which might materialize in the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. On this basis, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding $6,392,500 for the biennium 1990-1991 for non-conference-servicing costs. For conference-servicing costs an amount of up to $3,304,800 would be financed from within section 29 of the buget for the biennium 1990-1991. In addition, an amount of up to $1,246,200 would eventually have to be appropriated in the programme budget under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

90. For 1992, non-conference-servicing costs amounting to $2,388,600 and conference-servicing costs of $1,715,000 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

91. The Chairman also noted that in addition to the possibility of using up to $6,392,500 in the biennium 1990-1991 to cover the costs of this Conference, there is a chance that calls would be made on the contingency fund in significant amounts in respect of decisions already taken or to be taken by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies. It was thus likely that most or all of the contingency fund could be needed prior to the end of the first year of the biennium. The Chairman also recalled that in paragraph 7 of its resolution 43/214 of 21 December 1988, the Assembly had indicated that the appropriateness and the adequacy of the level of the contingency fund should be reviewed in the light of experience. Subsequently, in paragraph 4 of resolution 44/200 B of 21 December 1989, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit to it a report at its forty-sixth session on the review of procedures, inter alia, for the use and operation of the contingency fund. The Advisory Committee recommended that the situation be closely monitored in the course of the forty-fifth session. (See A/C.5/44/SR.62, paras. 3-18.)

Notes

a/ Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1988, document S/19835, annex.

b/ See A/C.5/44/50.

c/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/44/30), vols. I and II.

d/ Ibid., Supplement No. 9 (A/44/9).

e/ A/41/591.

f/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23), chap. II.

g/ Ibid., Supplement No. 48 (A/44/48).

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